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Bedford, TX 76021-4929**

January 17, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing today to encourage the Department of Justice to accept the Microsoft antitrust settlement. The terms of the settlement are fair and the issue needs to be resolved in order for the technology industry to be able to move forward.

Some critics say that Microsoft is getting away with an easy deal. This is simply not true. The settlement was arrived at after extensive negotiations with a court-appointed mediator. The company agreed to strict terms that extend well beyond the products and procedures that were actually at issue in the suit.

I know that there probably isn't a windows user out there that has not wanted to strangle Bill Gates and Microsoft when there system crashes or a little dialog box pops ups asking if you would like to make Explorer your default browser. The market place will decide the ups and downs of Microsoft.

I feel that today the Department of Justice needs to focus their time and resources on more important things, like terrorism, Enron, and Arthur Anderson.

Please accept the Microsoft antitrust settlement. I ask this as an investor in Microsoft and some of its competitors

Sincerely,


Robert Picard